

# News Release

# Senator Pete V. Domenici

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## DOMENICI: NMHU AWARDED \$850,000 FOR LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER

WASHINGTON -- New Mexico Highlands University at Las Vegas has been awarded \$850,000 in federal funding to help build an economic development center to promote job growth in the region, U.S. Senator Pete Domenici today reported.

The Economic Development Administration (EDA) will award the funding to NMHU for construction of a 9,000-square-foot center in Las Vegas. The EDA, a branch of the U.S. Department of Commerce, indicates that the center will work to "stimulate and facilitate economic development in the region and provide new career opportunities for the university's students."

Domenici said that when the federal funding is matched with \$806,000 in local and state funding, the school will have \$1.65 million for the center.

"I've supported this proposal for years and I'm pleased to see that the school's application for this federal assistance has been granted," Domenici said. "I believe Las Vegas and the other predominantly rural areas of northern New Mexico are poised and ready for more diversified job growth. This center, I hope, will work to generate and attract more economic opportunities for the people."

The center will include a survey center, multi-media room and other training facilities. It will focus on five primary components, including:

1. Small business management preparation to create small business climates that attract businesses from the United States and Latin America;
2. International trade instruction to better prepare students for careers in international trade;
3. Nonprofit management development to address the unique language and cultural needs of the region;
4. Establish a business and economic survey center to identify areas of current and emerging international markets, matching northern New Mexico trade capabilities with these markets; and,
5. Promote business growth in northern New Mexico.

"This center is just one more example of how NMHU is striving to diversify the

education it offers to its students. By expanding its offerings, the school is becoming an even better force for giving more students more options for personal and professional growth,” Domenici said.

Earlier this month, Domenici announced the release of \$925,000 in federal funding he secured last year to help NMHU construct a new science and engineering complex. To date, Domenici has secured \$4.5 million in federal funding toward the NMHU project, which is supplemented by \$2.5 million provided so far by the state of New Mexico. The project is expected to cost \$21 million. Approximately 65 percent of the NMHU enrollment is Hispanic and another 9 percent is American Indian.

Domenici has requested another \$5 million in federal funding this year through the FY 2001 VA-HUD Appropriations Bill for NMHU to proceed with the first phase of the science and engineering complex.